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January 2, 2001

Ms. Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

I urge the FDA to ban the use of human antibiotics to make livestock grow faster. The routine use of these human medicines has drastically reduced their effectiveness in treating human illnesses – the purpose for which they were created. This has already created widespread resistance to these formerly highly effective medicines, and continues to jeopardize public health. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture the principal cause of antibiotic resistance in food-borne bacteria like salmonella and campylobacter. By unnecessarily pumping huge quantities of antibiotics into healthy animals, producers are creating conditions where bacteria can quickly develop resistance to these drugs. As you know, when this happens – one strain of salmonella is now resistant to five antibiotics – doctors have fewer tools to combat human disease.

The European Union has already acted, banning all growth-promoting uses of antibiotics that have a role in human medicine. Last June, the World Health Organization repeated its call for the "termination or rapid phasing out of the use of antimicrobials for growth promotion if they are also used for treatment of humans."

Unfortunately, the FDA is dragging its feet. While the FDA studies the problem, how many diseases will become untreatable. I'm sure you would not wish for yourself or your family members to become treatment failures, due to resistance to antibiotics. **Please act now, to ban the use of human antibiotics to make livestock grow faster.**

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

Beth Gunn PhD
Beth Gunn, PhD

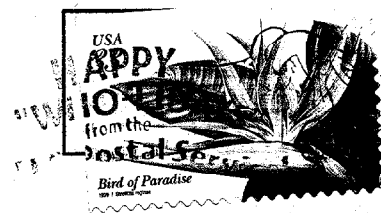
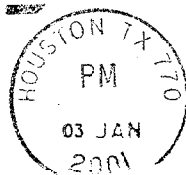
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